

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing at least part of a computer network, the method comprising:
 - generating an action signal from a wireless device, the action signal corresponding to a desired network management action to be performed in connection with the computer network;
 - sending the action signal to the computer network and processing the action signal; and
 - performing the desired network management action on the computer network.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising obtaining a result pertaining to the desired network management action and sending the result to the wireless device.
3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising performing a security clearance procedure prior to sending the action signal to ensure that the desired network management action is authorized.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the security clearance procedure comprises sending a password from the wireless device to the computer network and verifying that the password corresponds to an authorized entity.
5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising encrypting the action signal and password prior to sending the action signal and password and decrypting the action signal and password at the computer network.

6. The method of Claim 5 further comprising corresponding the password to a predefined set of authorized actions that an entity is authorized to perform on the computer network and only allowing the authorized actions to be performed by the entity with the corresponding password.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the authorized set of actions is less than a total number of actions that can be performed on the computer network.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising generating menus reflecting the predefined set of actions and displaying the menus on the wireless device.

9. The method of Claim 1 further comprising displaying a menu system, having a plurality of menus, on the wireless device and the menus comprise lists of selectable network devices and functions corresponding to the network devices.

10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising selecting a device and a function from the menus using the wireless device and transmitting a signal corresponding to the device and function to the computer network.

11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising performing the function on the network device and transmitting a result pertaining to the function to the wireless device.

12. A wireless device adapted to assist in remotely managing a computer network, the computer network comprising a server, software, and hardware, the wireless device comprising:

a screen for displaying information;

controls for operating the wireless device;

software for causing menus to be displayed on the screen, the menus corresponding to actions pertaining to managing the computer network, wherein the controls can be activated to select a desired network management action; and

a transmitter for transmitting an action signal corresponding to the desired network management action.

13. The wireless device of Claim 12 further comprising a receiver for receiving signals from the computer network corresponding to a result pertaining to the desired network management action.

14. A user interface for controlling a computer network, comprising:

a device menu that identifies at least some of the devices that comprise the computer network;

a device selection identifier that allows for selecting one of the devices;

function menus corresponding to the devices, the menus identifying at least some functions that can be performed in connection with the devices;

a function selection identifier corresponding to the function menus that allows for selecting one of the functions, and wherein an entity is able to select one of the devices comprising the computer network and select one of the functions corresponding to the device that is selected; and

a result screen that displays a result corresponding to the function that is selected.

15. The user interface of Claim 14 wherein one of the devices comprises a server.

16. The user interface of Claim 14 wherein one of the devices comprises a router.

17. The user interface of Claim 14 wherein the devices comprise at least one router and at least one server.

18. The user interface of Claim 17 wherein the user interface further comprises a main menu that lists options corresponding to alerts, bulletins, activity log, and devices comprising the computer network.

19. The user interface of Claim 17 wherein an option corresponding to devices comprising the computer network, when selected, provides a menu corresponding to at least one router and at least one server of the computer network.

20. The user interface of Claim 14 wherein the functions comprise statistics and reboot/shutdown.

21. The user interface of Claim 20 wherein the functions further comprise manage services and activity log.